



Cross Beams

October 2020

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

english
LUTHERAN CHURCH





"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Dear siblings in Christ,

How are you all doing? Really, how is your soul? As I write to you this month, the words of Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* sums up my thoughts: "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." Much good has happened this year, but man, SO much bad has happened too. I don't need to list it out, besides what personal struggles and tragedies each of us has faced, there has been SO much happening in our world that places a constant shadow over our day to day lives. For me at least, it's very palpable- I can feel it, this sense of heaviness, burden and tension. As I look at those around me, I sense the trepidation of many not knowing what to say- people are afraid to discuss the pandemic, schools, sports, church, the election, matters of race, justice, law enforcement and so much more for fear the other person might be on the other side of the political spectrum on those issues. Even the weather has become a point of political debate. What's left for us to safely make some small chat?

Even taking the politics out of things, I think we all are feeling like things are especially difficult this year. Many friends and family aren't gathering as much as they used to do—and many of our elders are in isolation due to COVID. Many things have been canceled, and the things that are still happening come with their own list of challenges and changes. Many traditions have had to be put on hold- Easter, Mother's & Father's Day celebrations, the 4th of July celebrations, fairs, etc. Many are working from home which has its blessings and challenges. Many small business owners are struggling.

So now that I've got you all thoroughly depressed, how do we respond to all this as followers of Christ? Well, I don't think we need to pretend that everything is OK. I don't think we need to go through it alone either. The Psalms are filled with God's people crying out for help from God. So God's Word and prayer are a place to start. Let your prayers rise up, as incense to God. Remember that our Lord Jesus told us to come to him with our burdens and he would give us rest. After that, do all you can to spread some joy and light into the darkness our world faces now. It might be a little more challenging due to the pandemic, but find safe ways to share God's love, light, peace, comfort, hope and joy with others. Have more patience with others. Listen more and talk less. Don't stir up division on social media. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Forgive often. Do everything out of kindness and love. Seek to make the world a better place for all, especially the poor and marginalized. Thank others for their service. In short, treat others as you would like to be treated and as if they were Jesus...because they are fellow children of God.

I'm praying for you in this time church. I hope you will pray for me also. I know things aren't how we would like them to be at church or the rest of the world. I trust better days are ahead. Let's keep together and be the light of Christ in the world. As the old hymn says, Christ is "the solid rock on which I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." God bless you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Worship Service Notes

We continue to hold our online worship services on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am on our Facebook page.

Because of the large spike in cases in Pierce county in late September, all in-person activities have been suspended for 2 weeks including our in-person parking lot worship services for October 4.

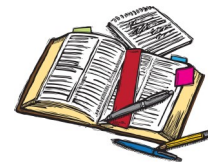


The covid task force team will reevaluate our community's covid status on October 6. We will communicate details as we have them.

Parking Lot Worship is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 am on October 11, 18, & 25.

Women's Bible Study

After talking with our group and Pastor Jeff, we have decided that for now, we will not have our monthly Bible study. However, those of you who receive the *Gather Magazine*, can find interesting articles, along with the monthly study.



Confirmation Classes

Classes have begun online, we are hoping to gather in small groups when we are able. Forms and documents are available online in the Youth Ministry section of our website or you can email Pastor Jeff for information and documents or with any questions.

Quilts

Thank you to Tammy Rieck for her donation of a quilt to *Luther Point Bible Camp's* Summer celebration Auction. The quilt raised \$500!



The graduate quilting group met in September. Pending guidelines on meeting, we hope to meet in October and November in order to complete enough quilts for 2021 graduates. We will follow safe procedures while meeting, using masks and sanitizer.

Judy Erickson and Tammy Brenner.

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is a day set aside by the church for remembering dedicated Christians of the past, remembrance of the beloveds who no longer laugh and cry with us on Earth.

We will celebrate *All Saints' Day* on Sunday, November 1. If you wish to submit the name of your loved ones who have died in the past year, please contact the office by October 22, with their names and photos. Names you provide do not need to be members of *English Lutheran Church*.



Tech Help Wanted

Submitted by Pastor Jeff



Ever wanted to create a movie? Good with computers? Willing to learn? I've learned a lot these last six months doing online worship out of necessity. But, I'm wondering if anyone in the congregation would be interested in helping with, being part of a team, or leading the charge, recording and editing our online worship services in the future so I can reclaim some time each week and get back to work on other important areas of ministry. Ability to use iMovie would be most helpful, but any movie-making software would work. Interested or have questions/suggestions? Let me know!

Endowment Request

Requests for ministry funding through the Mission Endowment Fund for this quarter must be submitted to the office or Kip by Fri., Oct. 9, at noon. Request forms are available online.

If you have questions regarding the Endowment Funds or to submit a request, please contact Kip Gore at: kiplinggore@gmail.com.



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES & FINANCIAL UPDATE

September Council

- † ELC Covid-19 Task Force update. The Task Force is following the guidelines of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Pierce County Public Health Department and the Northwest Synod regarding in person/indoor worship services. The council has recommended that a survey be sent to the congregation to see how much interest there is for indoor services. This will help determine if indoor services would be possible by the guidelines.
- † Approval of confirmands for Affirmation of Baptism. The three approved at this time who have their faith statements completed and recommended by Pastor Jeff Smith are Emily Groen, Jenna Bechel and Brooklynn Gabert. The remaining confirmands will be approved at a later date.
- † Youth House Update. Table action by council until all bids are in and HVAC is evaluated. The council recommends one more siding bid. Once HVAC is evaluated, a special Zoom meeting prior to the next council meeting will be arranged if approval is needed for a new roof this year yet.
- † Next council meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020 at 6:30p.m.



Membership File Updates

We'd like to be sure we have your current phone numbers, email, and address. We know many have gone away from a home number and now use just a cell phone number, maybe you changed your email address, or moved - let us know.

Please take a moment to email Trina in the office with your updated information.



Thank You Notes

Thank You!



Thank you to the folks who helped clean the ditches on our section of Cty. Rd. C.

Thank you to those who wrote cards and posted yard signs for our God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

Thank you to our Sunday school leaders for getting us off to a great start this fall!

2020 General Fund

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expense	Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
January	15,199.64	18,437.01	15,199.64	18,437.01
February	12,812.80	45,778.25	28,012.44	64,215.24
March	16,968.91	16,637.73	44,981.35	80,852.99
April	15,685.28	16,273.33	60,666.63	97,126.32
May	16,359.94	16,237.64	77,026.57	113,363.96
June	19,272.23	17,766.38	96,298.80	131,130.34
July	17,905.14	15,513.39	114,203.94	146,643.73
August	14,211.33	14,737.40	128,415.27	161,381.13

Cash Balances as of August 2020 month end:

Total = \$187,048.95

General Fund = \$47,526.61

Dedicated Fund = \$69,632.86

Thrivent = \$69,889.48

Notes:

~ The general fund, year to date expenses for 2020 are higher due to \$28,000 being moved to Thrivent from this fund.

~ English Lutheran Church received a potentially forgivable loan through the Paycheck Protection Plan through the Small Business Administration. We have used \$28,200 for our payroll and utility expenses.



PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

- ~ Prayers for the family of Bill Bjorkman who died in September.
- ~ Prayers for the family of Samantha & Erik Lee.
Samantha's grandfather, Butch Herman, died.
- ~ Prayers for the family of Pastor Jeff Smith, his aunt, Doris Jorke, died.

Healing:

Nancy Hove, Brain Cancer

Mike Hince, Cousin of Darla Moquin

~ cancer on his palate, surgery recovery

Long-term:

Burt & Lila Larson

Sherry York

Debbie Kannel-Howard

Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin

~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

Clint Olson

Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter

~ Multiple System Atrophy

Deb Pierce, Trina Groen's Mom ~ Alzheimer's

Joyce Geister, Julie Baggenstoss &

Carol Melstrom's Mother

Hazel Wegerer ~ Dementia

Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

Dale & Marianne Melstrom

Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

Wendy Wegerer ~ Health Issues

Military service: Cody Tschida & Johnathan Bergman

Deaconess

The role of the Deaconess consists of sending thoughts, well wishes, and congratulations to members of our church to let them know we are thinking of them. Please notify the church office or any deaconess worker with any prayers.

Deaconess for October ~ Mary Sokolik



Baptism

Juliette Rose Figi became our sister in Christ through Holy Baptism on Sunday, September 13, 2020. Juliette's parents are Tessa & Adam Figi and her sponsors are Gillian Davis, Jake & Nina Figi.

We celebrate and welcome our newest member to the Body of Christ.
Welcome, Juliette!





English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
Church website:
<http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org>
Find us on Facebook!

Staff

Pastor, Jeff Smith

pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617
Cell: 651-235-7204 (preferably 9 am-9 pm)
Call or text any time for urgent pastoral care.

**Communications Coordinator &
Finance Administrator, Trina Groen**
office@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss

Music Director, Evan Mitchell
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Church Office Hours

Wednesdays Noon to 8 pm
Pastor Jeff

Thursdays 9 am to 3 pm
Trina

Sundays 9 am to Noon
Pastor Jeff



Congregational Council

President: Peter Carr
Vice President: Dennis Boettcher
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Julie Davis
Jen Abbas
Denise Hager
Melba Smith
Paul Tonsager
Eric Van Nocker



Our Mission:

To share Christ's unconditional love,
inspiring us all for service to others.

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A decorative graphic for the month of October 2020. It features the text "October" in a large, blue, serif font and "2020" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, both arranged vertically. The text is surrounded by a circular border of small blue dots. To the right of the text is a cluster of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, along with several brown acorns.